## SELECTIONS

FROM THE

# VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

# NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 23rd December, 1874.

#### POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

The Rajputana Social Science Congress Gazette of the 11th December reports another case of burglary in Mohalla Mandawi Said Khan, in the city of Agra. The thieves are said to have robbed three or four shops, and no clue either to the property or perpetrators could be found. In one shop they were seen to steal and mix ata, dal, ghi, &c., and yet no one prevented it! The editor comments on this state of insecurity, and wonders where the police were all the time!

The Rohilkhand Akhbar of the 12th December quotes the Lawrence Gazette, which paper reports considerable increase of crime in the Mainpuri District; and thinks that the authorities ought to pay more regard to the punishment they award to such offenders as murderers and dacoits.

The same paper, on the authority of a correspondent at Ludhiana, mentions what the writer considers an odd way of settling a civil suit in the Court of the Extra Assistant Commissioner. According to the writer, a decree was given against a defendant who was not even made aware of it. A warrant for the attachment of his property followed, when the defendant represented in Court that he knew nothing about

the matter and that the claim was false; upon which the Extra Assistant Commissioner has gone into the case a second time! The editor adds that several subordinates of the Court are rather given to act in this way.

The Karnama of the 14th December, under the heading "Lucknow," referring to the Act for the prevention of cruelty to animals, says that at first many persons were arrested by the police under it, and were fined when necessary, but that the animals were again made over to their owners, and consequently subjected to the same system of ill usage. The editor is of opinion that the Local Government ought to establish a hospital for sick and wounded animals, the owners being compelled to pay the cost of medicine and food. By such means these poor dumb animals would be spared much pain, "and," he adds, "it is incumbent on the police to take notice of any acts of cruelty, and bring the perpetrators to justice, as well as to send the injured animals to hospital; so that in future their owners may be more careful, and not work them."

The Mutla-i-Nur of the 15th December complains of the authorities at Pilibhit who are about to convert an ancient graveyard, (some 200 years old) into a Government Garden; much against the wish of the native inhabitants. It is also said that a piece of ground near the Jama Masjid, also considered sacred, has already been "annexed" for the same purpose. "The people are silent because it is the order, but it will not be surprising if the principal families desert the place and resort to the villages."

The Patiala Akhbar of the 7th December complains that the kanungos and others of the amla who are expected to accompany the Hakim during their annuals tours through the districts do not receive the usual "bhatta" which puts them to much inconvenience during the four month's tour. The writer directs the attention of Government to this grievance, and hopes that it will be remedied.

The Khair Khwah-i-Alam of the 15th December discourses as follows concerning what he calls "Want of employment for Natives":—

"In these times the want of service, and the filling of high appointments is all due to a want of due consideration on the part of Government for the natives of the country, for if it would but pay some regard to this, why should our Aryan brethren grieve over the disposal of appointments such as Extra Assistant Commissionerships, &c.? Look into the army and you will find, 'the appointment of Subadar in the fourth heaven'. Here, even in the Education Department, the place of a Deputy Inspector is as difficult of attainment. It is a pity that those who bappen to be Eurasians, but who, compared with our native brethren, cannot hold a pen, and possess only the advantage over them of wearing coats and pantaloons, and who have but a slight claim in having 'passed,' can go straight up to a Financial Commissioner and urge their claims, which are at once recognized, while we natives may from first to last be the most loyal of the loyal, but have not even the opportunity of making our salams, as the answer for us is tell them the Sakib has no leisure."

The writer then goes on to put a series of questions and answers with the view of proving that in former times, that is, under native rule, this was not the case. He enquires of what use is it to argue when the Government is in the Hills? Who is to blame &c.,—all of which leads to the same reply that Government is solely to blame; "even in the Punjab," he says, "the best educated men, whose ancestors held good appointments under native rule, cannot now obtain the appointment of a zila moharrir!" and so on, through a long series of complaints, concluding as follows. "How long are we to cry? let us dry our tears, and ask a little from Government. But who will hear us? Well, let any one hear us or not as they please; our request is for the Government to pay some little regard to us, establish a school for trade, in order that our Aryan brethren may perfect

themselves in some profession and be able to get their own living by it."

The Urdu Akhbar, under the heading "Agra," complains of the prevalence of gambling in the city; "day and night some thousands of rupees are gambled away." The Editor adds that the keepers of gambling houses are quite fearless, as the police take no notice of them, and permit them to pursue their unlawful trade, as they are in league with them; and even if by some chance some one points out a gambling house to them, and they are obliged to take notice of it, they merely arrest some of the poor and needy ones engaged, and make such a report to the Magistrate that only a fine of one or two rupees is inflicted. The Editor thinks that the prevalence of gambling and this want of vigilance on the part of the police is due to the fact that the latter are paid to preserve secrecy and silence.

The Almora Akhbar of the 15th December, under the heading "partiality of caste," says that some days ago two natives were so violently assaulted in the theatre, Calcutta, by Europeans that their lives are despaired of; but that a correspondent of the Indian Daily News writes that "if the charge of murder is brought against the Europeans he will himself give Rs. 5,000 to aid them." The Editor adds that it is a matter of regret to observe how little value is placed upon the lives of natives; "in fact it seems that to murder them the English do not object to spend money, and it is like offering a reward for the destruction of wild animals!"

The Lawrence Gazette of the 15th December reports that Colonel Lucas of the Artillery has been assaulted by a fakir at Ahmadabad, who was only prevented from wounding him by some sharp instrument fastened to a bamboo, by its striking the carriage. The culprit was seized by the police, but is said to be insane. The Editor remarks that in such cases criminals generally escape the punishment they deserve by feigning madness, and he recommends that only lame and

blind criminals should be placed in confinement and looked after, but that those fakirs who are able to work should be made to do so, when it would be found that, independent of such crimes, those great banes of India, apathy and idleness, might be lessened. Unless this is done, he thinks that many will take to this kind of beggary, as the only thing left them to do.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 18th December remarks that the superstition regarding "witchcraft" has not yet been removed from the minds of the people of Hindustan, inasmuch as that at Bhandara, in Central India, a man recently murdered his own mother because he thought she practised witchcraft; and in the same way a man was sacrificed because some one had said that his son was a wizard. Sentence of transportation was passed. The Editor adds that "Rajputana is famed for this species of crime, and people suspected of witchcraft are made away with in the most mysterious manner. Let us see how long this will last."

The Atalik-i-Hind of the 14th December comments upon an article in the Friend of India concerning the Municipal Committee of Allahabad; viz:—the intention of that body to place Rs. 10,000 in 1875 at the disposal of the Mayo Memorial fund. The writer disapproves of the measure, and thinks that this large sum of money might be more profitably laid out, for instance towards establishing a School of Arts, or in relieving the poor. He also suggests that a workhouse should be opened in order to give the many vagrants with which Allahabad abounds some means of living."

The Ab-i-Hayat-i-Hind of the 15th December, referring to the visit of Sir John Strachey to Agra, says "that it has quite enlivened the place; the fact being that the Almighty has created the English people as patterns for perfect administration, from whom the Hindustani Chiefs would do well to reform their habits, manners, and customs, and by good management make their Government better and their subjects

ment on the shelf and have only adopted a portion of it, viz., the wearing of English shoes and dress, the travelling about alone without any pomp or display, while the proper administration of their countries, and the welfare of their people, receive no attention from them. Most of their time is passed in idleness, so that they have little left to devote to the management of their affairs."

The Vakil-i-Hindustan of the 16th December publishes a long article on the Settlement Department. The writer, while acknowledging that there is no work more intricate or difficult to settle than assessment, thinks that the Government looks upon it as comparatively easy, and does not pay that attention to it which it demands. The editor says, "God forbid that we should assert that Government has taken from each tahsildar a very large amount, but we mean to imply that the investigation is not what it should be when the settlement is made, because it will be found that in each zila there is a separate officer appointed until the settlement work is completed, and this difficult and intricate task rests entirely on him, to settle in any way he pleases. To our thinking this is not a good arrangement, as some Europeans are careless or perhaps biassed in favour of Government, and this partiality is productive of great loss to the zemindars. Other officers again are so just in their dealings, that they show a leaning towards the cultivators, and thus the Government suffers."

The writer proceeds to give it as his opinion, that these set lements should not rest entirely on the decision of one officer only, but that in the first instance, the settlement officer should send in his statement of the districts, and give his candid opinions upon them; this statement to be submitted to the Chief Commissioner of the Province, through the Commissioner of the Division. After due deliberation and discussion, each officer stating his views on the subject, this should be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor, who should appoint a Secretary fully acquainted with such works

to examine and report upon it. Finally, let the chief officer look through it, and decide the proper amount of the assessment to be fixed, and call upon the revenue officer to carry out the decision. By such an arrangement the Government and the ruled will each receive their fair dues. We may point out that it has been proved that one officer alone by the heavy assessments he has made, has been the means of ruining the whole zila, we allude to zila Khiri in Oudh, and the result was a general complaint from the talukdars. Now the Chief Commissioner of Oudh has sent orders on the subject to Colonel Clark of this Department." The writer says he can give other instances of such mismanagement, which causes loss to Government.

The same paper says it is the custom of some of the Panjab officials to reject all petitions presented during the sitting of the Courts, and to take only those presented when the Court business is over. The writer considers that those who have urgent cases to represent must be put to very great inconvenience and loss by this delay, and he thinks that if the Judges of the High Court, or the Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjab would issue a Circular, prohibiting this hardship, it would be well. The writer concludes by stating that he gives the statement from his own experience.

The Meerut Gazette of the 19th December quotes from the Koh-i-Nur an account of a theft having been committed in the house of one Ilahi Bakhsh, mistri. A box of ornaments valued at Rs. 5,000 is said to have been taken, and the writer is the more amazed at the perpetrators being Government servants and learned men in whose houses property valued at Rs. 3,000 has been discovered. The thieves are said to be a kanungo of tahsil, an ahalmadd of Collectory, two sepahis and one havildar, and they have all been punished by the authorities. Kazi Farman Ali, the shalmadd, has been dismissed from his situation, and the writer says it is all the evil effects of over indulgence in wine. The editor thinks that

Government servants who have already the reputation of accepting bribes have now added another distinctive quality to themselves by becoming thieves, and he concludes thus, "what a want of dignity and honor it is to admit such men to the service of Government."

The Koh-i-Nur of the 19th December comments upon the systematic annoyance travellers are exposed to from a class of men styling themselves brokers. The writer proceeds to say that under the Government of the Panjab the cities of Lahore, Amritsar and Delhi are considered worthy of visits from far countries; but that one great evil arising from the visits of travellers is the importunity of these brokers, who make things quite unbearable during their visit, for no sooner do they, the brokers, find out a stranger, than they surround him by tens and twenties at the same time, and cause him such annoyance that he quite loses sight of all pleasure during his visit and is glad to get back to his lodgings; but even there he finds some of these very people ready to annoy him. "The amount of cheating and fraud that goes on is shameful and travellers cannot help wondering why, under the Panjab Government they should be subjected to such importunity during their visits. Police constables stand within a few yards of these scenes, but do not attempt to interfere to prevent them, and every traveller is plundered daily under the very noses of the police."

The same paper publishes an article upon vagrancy. The writer approves of the establishment of workhouses for European vagrants, and thinks it would be well to follow the example in regard to native beggars; some of whom, he says, "go about in the day begging, and at night steal from the very houses which they have visited." He considers that such people are answerable for many dacoities. In recommending the above measure for Hindustani vagrants the writer says that these people should not be made to work on the roads, canals, &c.; but they should be taught some

useful work, the manufacture of carpets for instance, as Hindustan needs such workmen. But, he adds, "the general idea is that Government is apprehensive that by teaching such useful arts to the natives it will be depriving its own countrymen of bread; still, by following our advice it would save itself from this reproach. It may be asked where the money is to come from? To this we reply that as we have already proved that Europeans and Natives are equally the subjects of Government, it is only fair that Government should bear the expenses of both, but if this cannot be done, let the Municipal Funds pay for the natives."

The Hindu Prakash of the 18th December notices that at a place called Dehra Baba Nanak in the district of Gurdaspur, a rais is said to have committed infanticide by murdering his daughter, and burying the body. But as the latter process was effected in a loose manner some dogs dug up the body and half devoured it. The remains have been discovered by the police, and an enquiry is going on.

The Panjabi Akhbar of the 19th December brings forward a complaint as follows. While admitting that it is but fair that those who till the ground, and reap the advantages of irrigation, should pay water-tax, the writer considers it scarcely se to demand it from those who have lost their lands by encroachments of the river. He alludes to pieces of ground where the remains or ruins of old wells are to be seen, and which, it appears are made the excuse for exacting water rates. He concludes that this state of things has not yet reached the ears of the Financial Commissioner, but that now it has thus been brought prominently forward, these poor people who are so oppressed may be relieved.

### POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The Nasir-ul-Islam of the 11th December, noticing the fact that all who were considered trustworthy witnesses in the late poisoning case at Baroda, have either themselves been poisoned or been compelled to leave the place, is of opinion

that this will have an injurious effect upon those who may now be called upon to give evidence.

The Gwaliar Gazette of the 13th December, under the heading "Sitara," publishes the following:—"From a paper 'name not given' we learn that certain of the rajas of the ilakas who are much in debt have resolved to cut off the noses of any mahajans or bankers who may come to claim their dues, and that they will in addition cut off the ears of their horses. The latter resolution has been already carried out on the unfortunate horse of a seth who went to the village, and remained there for the night. While the people were performing the operation the seth happened to witness it, and fearing for the safety of his nose, fled just in time to avert the consequences."

The Shola-i-Tur of the 15th December publishes the following:—"It is said that the Maharaja Malhar Rao has lately ordered Rakhmaji the father of Lakshmibai, to be placed under guard, and a guard of sentinels accordingly surrounds this person's house."

The Nasir-ul-Akhbar of the same date, under the heading "Jaipur," says that a strict order has been passed prohibiting the shooting of pigeons, deer, and peafowl. The writer goes on to say, "the Maharaja is a great patron of the people, and we have heard that he is in the habit of going about the city in disguise at night." The editor adds. "What can a ruler do? It would be better for him if he took it out in sleep, and if better administrators can be found for him."

The Muir Gazette of the 12th December mentions an attempt made by one of his wives to poison the Chief of Jaithi. This Chief fancied he had cause to suspect her chastity, as she had lately given birth to a child, so she caused some poisoned sweetmeats to be given to him; those who partook of them, one of whom was the Thakur's uncle, were immediately affected by the poison. Mr. Crawley, the Political Agent, is said to be investigating the matter.

The Akmal-ul-Akhbar of the 13th December mentions that Colonel Phayre has had interviews with those whose friendship he considers worthy of cultivation. "All were gladdened by the appointment of Sir Lewis Pelly, and the Maharaja of Baroda is said to have distributed some Rs. 3,000 worth of food to the Brahmins on the happy occasion."

The Urdu Akhbar of the 8th December publishes the following under the heading "Baroda." The Maharaja of Baroda, in his anxiety to make the son of Lakshmibai Heir Apparent, performed the ceremony before the sanction of Government had been obtained for the adoption of the boy, and when the reply of Government to the application arrived, to the effect that the boy should not be recognized until all other arrangements had been well understood, the Maharaja was greatly subdued, and all preparations for the happy event have been put a stop to."

#### COMMERCIAL.

## (Railways.)

The Patiala Akhbar of the 14th December complains of the mismanagement of railway trains. The writer says that not a month passes without an accident of some kind, through bad driving on the part of the engine drivers, who are, most of them, invariably in a state of intoxication. "They drink before starting, and generally have two or more bottles on the road." The Editor is of opinion that very strict rules ought to be observed in this matter; and that moreover such persons who are found drunk ought to be treated as criminals and punished as such, as they have charge of thousands of lives. The writer adds. "We are quite sure that the only way to remedy this evil will be to employ native engine-drivers."

The Vakil-i-Hindustan of the 16th December, in its local news columns, publishes a statement to the effect that a most respectable student of the Government High School at Amrit-sar has been very harshly treated by some of the railway.

Moradabad to fetch a friend, when he was, for some reason or other, beaten unmercifully by the Assistant Station-master and some Eurasians of the Railway Department. The Editor says that he is quite ready to furnish proof of this assault to the Consulting Engineer, and adds "it is a sorrowful thing that these acts should occur, as they are the main cause of wounding the hearts of Hindustanis."

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The Dabdaba-i-Sikandari of the 14th December lauds the generosity of the Chief of Kashmir, who is said to have sent Rs. 12,000 for the purpose of erecting a Pathshala at Benares. His Agents have also been sent with letters to the Maharaja of Benares to see that this is properly carried out.

The Atalik-i-Hind of the same date comments upon some remarks published in the Englishman concerning Universities in Hindustan. The Editor says he quite agrees with the Englishman. "The indifference of the English, and the want of ambition and power in the Universities, have well nigh ruined our schools, as only to a few Hindustanis is any power given by Government, and these are not worthy; therefore the power is misplaced. It would be better to bestow more favour by appointing men of merit and ability, so that they might work out that which the Government so much desires."

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report:-

	NAMES OF NEWSPAPERS.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	<b>Р</b> овывнер.	DATE.	0 80	DATE RECEIPT.
					1874.		1874.
8	Saiyid-ul-Akhbar,	Urdu, Hindi, and English.	Dehli,	Tri-monthly,	Decr. 10th	Decr.	17th
Na	'am'	b		Bi-monthly,	, 11th	2	17th
120	Kapputana Social Science Congress Gazette.			w eekly,	u111 4	2	1750
Ta	Taj-ul-Akhbar,	_		Tri-weekly,	" 12th	•	17th
Ro	:	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Bi-weekly,	, 12th		1; th
S	:	D		Weekly,	" 18th		17th
2	•	Marathi,		Ditto,	" 14th	2	17th
Ğ	Dabdaba-i- Sikandri,	5		Ditto,	" 14th	*	171
S	Shola-i-Tur,	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	" 16th	*	17th
Z	Nasir-ul-Akhbar,			Bi-monthly,	, 15th	2	17th
N	Muir Gazette,			Weekly,	" 12th	*	18th
A	kmal-ul-Akhbar,			Disto,	" 18th		18th
7	Anjuman Akkbar,		_	Ditto,	" 14th	•	18th
K	Karnamah,	. Ditto,		Ditto,	, 14th	•	18th
2	atiala Akhbar,		, ,	Ditto,	" 14th		2 18th
Z	Matla-i-Nur,	_	-	Ditto,	" 15th	•	18th
2	Nasim-i-Jaunpur,			Ditto,	" 15th		18th
R	Khair Khwah-i-Alam,		Dehli,	Tri-monthly,	" 15th		19th
5	Urdu Akhbar,			Weekly,	" 16th		18th
F	•	Ditto,		Ditto,	10th		19th
80	:	Ditto,		Ditto	14th	: :	19th
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						1874.	18	1874.
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25   Lawrence Ga	Gazette,	Ordu,	n,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" " 15th	*	19th
Safr-i-Hi	•	A	Ditto,	-	Tri-monthly,	" 15th	:	19th
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Konukhanu	Kilout,	-			Wookly	16+4	2	1044
	•	:	6000	State Out	Weekly,	1101 6	2	1361
29   Khair Khwah-i-Panjab,	i-Panjab,	- :	Ditto,	Gujranwala,	Ditto,	" 16th	*	19th
30 Nur Afshan.		Ä	Ditto,	Ludhiana,	Ditto,	., 17th	:	19th
7.		id -	Ditto.	Lucknow	Bi-weekly.	18th	•	19th
		-		Ditto	Tri-weekly.	14th		21st
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	al Gazette,	Ordu,	1,	Denii,	Tri-monthly,	1, 15th	×	21st
36 Jalwa-i-Tur,	:	io	Ditto,	Meerut,	Weekly,	" 16th	*	21st
37   Najm-ul-Akhbar,		id — iii	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 16th		21st
38 Akhbar-i-Am,	•	id — ii	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 16th		21st
39   Taj-ul-Akhbar,		id — ii	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Tri-weekly,	" 16th		21st
40 Malwa Akhbar,		Marathi,	uthi,	Indaur,	Weekly,	,, 16th	•	2 ist
11 Benares Akhbar,	W,	Hindi,	i,	Benares,	Ditto,	" 17th	•	21st
42 Aligarh Institute	te Gazette,	Urd	Urdu and English,	Aligarh,	Ditto,	" 18th		21st
43   Taj-ul-Akhbar,		(Urdu,		Lucknow,	Tri-weekly,	18th		21st
44 Nur-ul-Afaq,	:	i A	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	Bi-monthly,	" 19th	•	21st
45   Nur-ul-Anwar.	:	io - ::	Ditto,	Ditto,	Weekly,	, 19th	•	21st
46 Urdu Dehli Gazette,	azette,	id - ::	Ditto,	Agra,	Ditto,	" 19th		21st
47 Marwar Gazette,	tte	Urdu	Urdu and Hindi,	Jodhpur,	Ditto.	, 14th	:	22nd
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1	Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab,					" 18th	* :	22nd
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Meerut, Jaipur,	Amritsar, Lahore, Lucknow, Meerut, Lucknow,
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Congress	11111
Science	 -i-Hind,
Meerut Gazette, Rajputana Social	Hindu Prakash, Ranjabi Akhbar, Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Hind, Muir Gazette,
H. C.	55 7 5 F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F

ALLAHABAD: The 26th December, 1874.

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER, Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

